New Nouveau Brunswick

Labour Market Information Monthly

March 2012 Edition *Issue 3 Volume 9*

Seniors returning to Canada*

This Month

· Seniors returning to Canada
· Key Labour Force Statistics
· The Industry Report

While emigration has traditionally been regarded as a 'brain drain' through which Canada permanently loses human capital, recent studies suggest that the nature of international migration is changing. Specifically, it is viewed as more circulatory than in the past, with many individuals leaving their home country with the intention of returning at some point in the future .

The characteristics of emigrants who return to Canada, and particularly the age at which they do so, may have social and economic implications. The return of younger emigrants is typically viewed as a reversal of the 'brain drain,' with many young emigrants "drawn from sectors thought to be important to Canada's economy and society". Research underscores the extent to which international networks and experience improve the labour market outcomes of younger emigrants upon their return to their home countries. Overall, younger returnees provide Canada with an inflow of individuals in their prime working years, many of whom have valued skills and experience.

The return of older emigrants raises different questions. Some research suggests that the income taxes paid by older returnees following a long-term stay abroad may not cover their subsequent health care costs. Moreover, if there are more seniors returning to Canada than leaving, extra pressures may be placed on some public programs, like those that support low-income seniors. Nonetheless, the return of older emigrants may also provide benefits to Canadian society. Like younger returnees, older returning emigrants may bring international experience and networks with them that are valued in the labour market, although the extent to which these are utilized will depend on employment rates at older ages. The return of older emigrants may also have social benefits related to the care of family members or volunteer activities, to cite two examples.

Given the range of implications associated with return migration at older ages, the number and characteristics of emigrants who return to Canada at later stages of life merit attention. Several questions are addressed in this article: Do seniors account for a large proportion of returned emigrants? From where do older emigrants return? Do the characteristics of older returned emigrants differ from those of older Canadians who did not live abroad? Do the amounts and sources of income received in old age differ between these groups?

Returned emigrants are comprised of two distinct groups - those who are Canadian-born and those who immigrated to Canada prior to emigrating. The return of immigrants to Canada is of particular interest given higher levels of immigration in the 1990s and 2000s relative to previous decades and the increasingly fluid nature of migration.

Due to the unique and well-established migratory relationship between Canada and the United States (U.S.), emigrants who return from the United States are also of particular interest. This is especially so given the introduction of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) visas in the 1990s. These visas allow Canadians to work in the U.S. for many years without the need to become permanent residents.

*** From *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Kristyn Frank and Feng Hou, January 2012, Statistics Canada**

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Senior returnees are a small portion of return emigrants

In 2006, just under 156,000 individuals age 20 or older returned to Canada after having lived abroad 5 years earlier. In proportional terms, this group accounted for 0.7% of all Canadians age 20 or older. In 1991 and 1996, between 100,000 and 110,000 individuals returned to Canada after having lived abroad 5 years earlier, accounting for 0.5% to 0.6% of the population. Of the returnees identified in 2006, about two-thirds (63%) were Canadian-born and about one-third were immigrants. The share of returnees who were Canadian-born ranged from 58% to 67% in previous census years, with no clear trend over time.

In 2006, as in previous census years, most returnees were young, with about one-half between the ages of 20 and 39 and three-quarters between the ages of 20 and 49. In contrast, 13% of returnees were age 60 or older, accounting for about 19,000 individuals. There was an observable difference between Canadian-born and immigrant returnees in this regard. While 9% of Canadian-born returnees were age 60 or older, this was the case for 18% of immigrant returnees. In absolute terms, there were about 9,000 Canadian-born returnees age 60 or older and about 10,000 immigrant returnees in this age group in 2006.

Within age groups, Canadian-born and immigrant returnees comprise a small share of the Canadian population. In 2006, returnees accounted for 0.9% and 1.1% of the population age 20 to 29 and 30 to 39, respectively. These were larger shares than in older age groups. This may be associated with the fact that younger individuals leave in greater numbers and the rate of return is highest within a few years of emigration. The high rate of mobility among younger age groups is typically due to employment or educational opportunities abroad and fewer constraints, like spousal jobs or home ownership. In 2006, returnees accounted for 0.4% and 0.2% of the population age 60 to 69 and 70 or older, respectively.

Older returnees possess higher levels of education than stayers

Senior returnees differ from stayers in several ways. Canadian emigrants are more highly educated than the general population and returnees would thus also be expected to have relatively high levels of education. This is indeed the case. In 2006, about one-third of Canadian-born and immigrant returnees age 60 or over had a university degree compared with 10% to 14% of stayers in this age group.

Across all age groups, migration patterns differ between Canadian women and men, with men more likely to emigrate from Canada and more likely to return after leaving. Among seniors in 2006, women accounted for 49% to 50% of returned emigrants, but for 53% to 55% of stayers in the Canadian population.

Dual citizenship reduces barriers to living abroad, like eligibility to take employment elsewhere, and is associated with being a returned emigrant. Almost 10% of older Canadian-born returnees held dual citizenship in 2006 compared to less than 1% of Canadian-born stayers. At just over 20%, immigrant returnees had the highest level of dual citizenship—almost double the proportion of immigrant stayers.

Due to their time abroad, senior returnees may be less likely to own their homes after returning to Canada. Although the majority of Canadian-born and immigrant returnees lived in owned homes in 2006, home ownership was higher among stayers.

Most older Canadian-born returnees lived with their spouse only (52%), similar to Canadian-born stayers. A smaller percentage of immigrant returnees lived with a spouse only, while about one-fifth lived alone. The data also indicate that senior immigrant returnees are more likely than stayers to reside with their extended families, as 17% live with others only.

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Finally, immigrants to Canada primarily settle in the largest population centres while Canadian-born individuals are more evenly distributed across large and small communities. The same pattern was noted among the returnee population. Similar to Canadian-born stayers, older Canadian-born returnees were fairly evenly distributed with respect to the size of community in which they lived. Older immigrant returnees were twice as likely as their Canadian-born counterparts to live in the census metropolitan areas of Montréal, Toronto or Vancouver and one-third as likely to live in non-urban areas.

Older emigrants primarily lived in the United States prior to returning to Canada

The United States has long been the top destination for Canadian emigrants (approximately 40% of all Canadians abroad reside in the U.S). While the United States is considered a 'traditional' destination for Canadian emigrants, some evidence suggests that an increasing share of Canadian emigrants is relocating to non-traditional nations, particularly countries in Asia. Although the source countries for older returnees were more varied in 2006 than in 1991, the top two remained the United States and the United Kingdom (U.K.). Indeed, the majority of older Canadian-born returnees resided in the U.S. 5 years prior to the 2006 Census.

Migration to the United States reflects its geographic proximity to Canada, as well as the strong economic ties and cultural and linguistic similarities between these countries. A number of the remaining top source countries for Canadian-born returnees are also nations that are either geographically close to Canada (e.g., Mexico) or culturally and economically similar (e.g., United Kingdom, Australia, France).

Nonetheless, the proportion of senior Canadian-born returnees who resided in the United States, and to a lesser extent in the United Kingdom, decreased between 1991 and 2006, again pointing to the importance of non-traditional countries as emigrant destinations. Among immigrants age 60 or older who returned to Canada, the majority had resided in countries other than the U.S. or the U.K. 5 years earlier, although both countries were the two top sources of immigrant returnees. Hong Kong, mainland China and India were the other major sources.

In some cases, differences observed between 1991 and 2006 likely reflect changing circumstances in immigrants' home countries. For example, the relatively high placing of Hong Kong as a source country for senior immigrant returnees in both 1991 and 2006 follows a large influx of immigrants to Canada in the 1980s—just prior to the former British colony's integration into China. The rapid growth and international integration of the Chinese economy is also evident, as China was not among the top 10 source countries in 1991 but was the fourth largest source country for both Canadian-born and immigrant senior returnees in 2006.

While the United States and the United Kingdom are the countries from which many older emigrants return, they are often not the countries in which immigrants' returnees were born. Most notably, while 26% of older returned immigrants resided in the U.S. 5 years prior to their return to Canada, only 7% were born in the U.S. Quite clearly, some immigrants are not moving back to their country of birth when they leave Canada. The top birth countries of older returned immigrants are the United Kingdom, China, the United States and India.

With regard to older immigrants who returned from the United States, most were born in that country but many were also born in the United Kingdom, and, to a lesser extent, Germany, India, the Netherlands and China.

Small rates of return for Canadian-born seniors in U.S., but those who return are more highly educated

Return rates of emigration from the United States can be estimated using Canadian and U.S. census data. While return rates for Canadian-born returnees can be estimated, an examination of Canadian immigrants who return from the U.S. would only

include those who were living in Canada in 1995 and residing in the U.S. in 2000. Thus, this analysis focuses on Canadian-born emigrants.

Only a small percentage of older Canadian-born emigrants residing in the United States in 2000 returned to Canada in the 5 years prior to 2006. While about 12% to 13% of Canadian-born emigrants age 20 to 39 returned to Canada in the 5 years prior to 2006, about 3% of those age 60 to 69 and less than 1% of those age 70 or over did so. Overall, about 1 in 10 Canadian-born emigrants who returned from the U.S. in 2006 was 60 or over.

Canadian-born seniors who return to Canada from the U.S. often have high levels of educational attainment. Of those who returned between 2000 and 2006, almost 30% had a university degree compared with about 20% of all Canadian-born emigrants (age 60 or over) who resided in the U.S. in 2000 and 10% of Canadian-born seniors who resided in Canada from 2000 to 2006.

Older returnees concentrated in professional and managerial occupations

The high level of educational attainment among returnees is one reason to ask whether their employment rates and labour market outcomes differ from those of the general population. For example, emigrants' high levels of education may be reflected in higher earnings and a greater likelihood of working in skilled jobs. Similarly, returned immigrants may be disproportionately represented in professional occupations due to high emigration among those who arrived under the skilled worker and business classes. In addition, returned emigrants may be more likely to participate in the labour force upon their return to Canada for financial reasons, since Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan benefits are based on the duration and level of contributions paid.

Among those age 60 and over, returnees have higher employment rates than stayers. Among Canadian-born individuals there is a 4 percentage point difference between these groups, while among immigrants there is a 2.5 percentage point difference. Canadian-born returnees have the highest employment rate of the 4 groups identified. Senior returnees are also more likely than stayers to be actively looking for work (i.e., to be unemployed).

Among individuals age 60 or over who are employed, returnees are far more likely than stayers to be working in managerial or professional occupations. Indeed, the majority of Canadian-born returnees (55%) work in these two broad occupational categories compared with 27% of Canadian-born stayers. A large difference is also evident between immigrant returnees and stayers (45% and 32% respectively).

Returnees age 60 and over receive less government transfers than other older Canadians

Individuals who emigrate from Canada typically have higher levels of income than others, corresponding to their higher levels of education. Therefore, returnees could be expected to have higher average incomes than those who remained in Canada. On the other hand, income from government transfers may be lower among returnees than among stayers because of residence and contribution requirements. Furthermore, recent research indicates that Canadian-born returnees have better economic outcomes than immigrant returnees.

In 2005, Canadian-born returnees had a higher average total income ($43,800) than Canadian-born stayers ($31,900). This was due to market incomes that were, on average, about $15,000 higher among Canadian-born returnees than stayers. In contrast, average income from government transfers was lower among returnees. The income gap between Canadian-born returnees and stayers was particularly pronounced among those age 60 to 69 (data not shown).

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Comparing senior immigrant returnees and stayers, total average incomes differed by less than $1,000, reflecting the offsetting differences of higher market incomes but lower government transfers among the former.

Despite higher or comparable total incomes among returnees, they were more likely than stayers to experience low income in 2005. In fact, among older immigrant returnees, nearly one-quarter fell into low income compared with 17% of Canadian-born returnees, 16% of immigrant stayers and 14% of Canadian-born stayers.

The higher average income and higher incidence of low income among older Canadian-born returnees is reflected in their distribution across personal income categories. Larger shares of older Canadian-born returnees than stayers had personal incomes of less than $10,000 or $50,000 or more in 2005. This more polarized distribution of income underlies the differences in average income and low-income rates. Larger shares of older immigrant returnees than stayers had personal incomes below $10,000, reflected in their incidence of low income.

Government transfers comprised far less of older returnees' total incomes than stayers in this age group. This is particularly true for Canadian-born returnees—over 80% of their total income came from market income. A slightly smaller share of returned immigrants' incomes came from wages and salaries, self-employment income, and investment or retirement income. In comparison, government transfers accounted for nearly one-third of the incomes of senior stayers.

Conclusion

Although this study was motivated by the potential impact of returning senior emigrants, census data show that it is younger, primarily Canadian-born, emigrants who return to Canada in larger numbers. In fact, returnees age 60 and over comprise a small percentage of all returnees and represent a minute share of Canada's senior population. Overall, emigrants who return to Canada are mainly in their prime working years.

Senior returnees most frequently returned from the United States or the United Kingdom. However, there has been a shift in the top countries from which Canadians return, with an increasing share returning from developing countries—particularly China. Among those who left Canada to reside in the U.S., younger Canadian-born emigrants return to Canada at higher rates than senior Canadian-born emigrants.

The settlement patterns of Canadian-born and immigrant returnees were very different. Older immigrant returnees were twice as likely as their Canadian-born counterparts to live in 1 of the 3 major census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and one-third as likely to live in non-urban areas.

Seniors who return to Canada are a highly educated group. One-half of them have at least some postsecondary education and about one-third have a university degree. Moreover, they have a higher rate of employment than stayers and often work in professional and managerial jobs.

Older Canadian-born returnees earned higher average market and total incomes than stayers. Returnees age 60 and over also drew less income from government transfer payments than stayers in this age group. In particular, Canadian-born and immigrant returnees received lower transfer payments from the Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan than stayers, with immigrant returnees receiving the smallest amount. Returnees also received smaller Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments than those who remained in Canada. Despite their higher average incomes, older returnees, particularly immigrants, were more likely to fall below low-income thresholds than stayers, reflecting the skewed distribution of income among this group.

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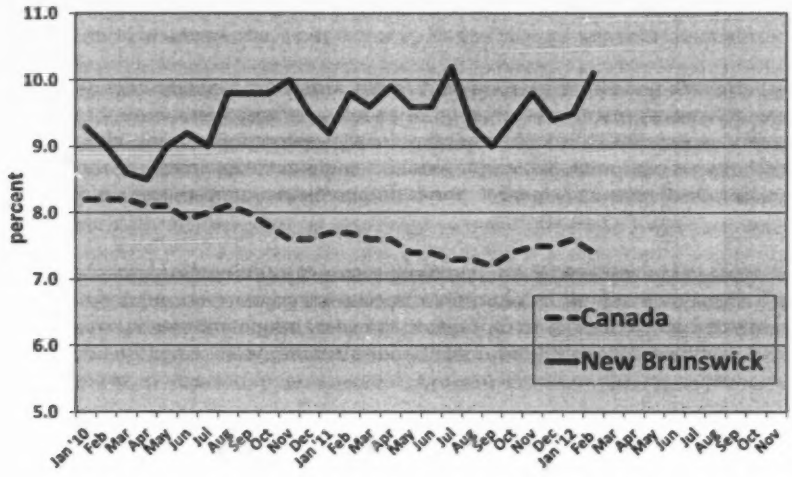
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	Year-to-Date	February '12	January '12	February '11
Labour Force	392,500	392,300	392,600	391,300
Employed	353,900	352,600	355,200	353,000
Unemployed	38,600	39,700	37,400	38,400
Unemployment Rate	9.8%	10.1%	9.5%	9.8%
Participation Rate	63.3%	63.2%	63.3%	63.2%
Employment Rate	57.1%	56.8%	57.3%	57.1%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In February, Canada's unemployment rate was 7.4%, 0.2 of a percentage point lower than last month and 0.3 of a percentage point lower than the same month last year. New Brunswick's rate of 10.1% was 0.6 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.3 of a percentage point higher when compared to the same month last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

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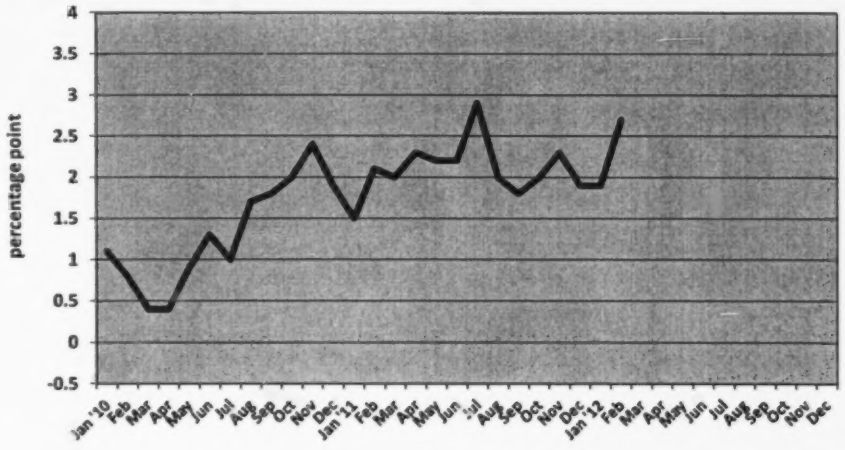
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 2.7 percentage points in February.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

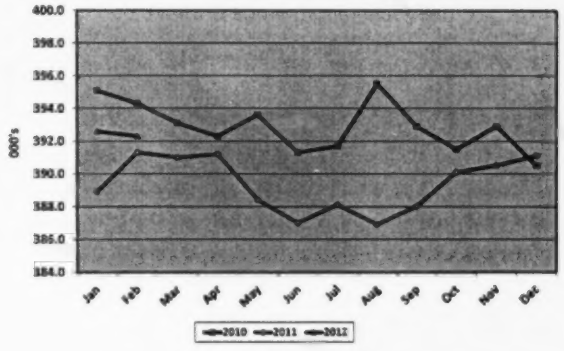


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force was 392,300 in February. This was a decrease of 300 over the previous month, but an increase of 1,000 over the same month last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

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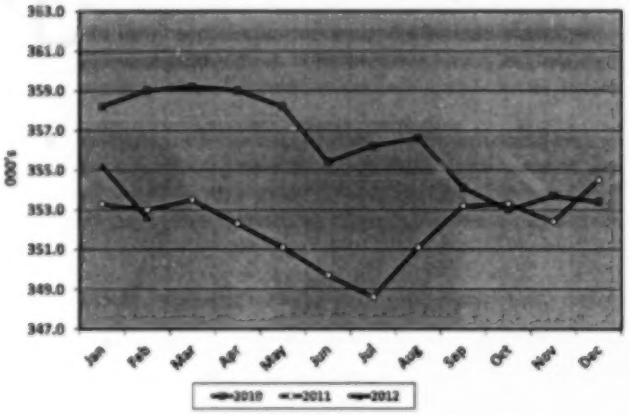
EMPLOYMENT

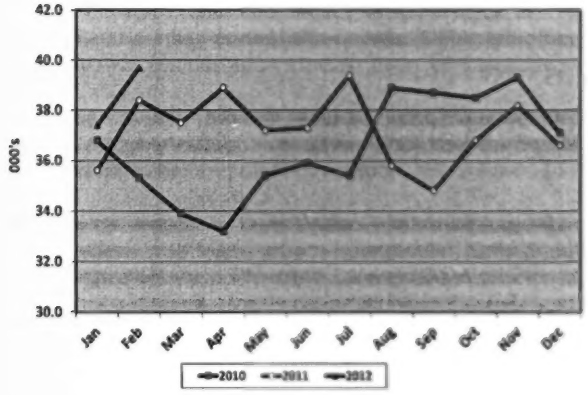
There were 352,600 people working in February. This was 2,600 less than the previous month and 400 less than the same month last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force

UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 39,700 people unemployed and seeking work in February. This was 2,300 more than what was recorded the previous month and 1,300 more than the same month last year.

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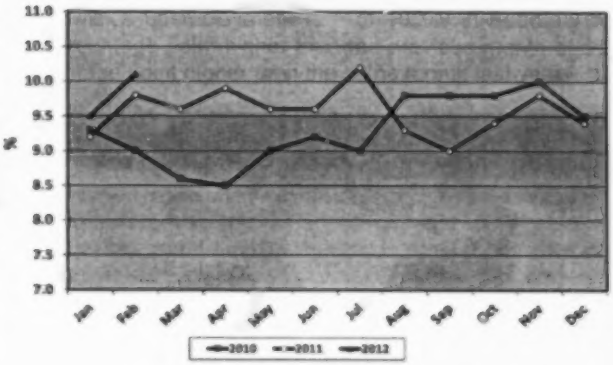
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 10.1% in February was 0.6 of a percentage point higher than the previous month and 0.3 of a percentage point higher than the same month last year.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

February '12	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	68,000	113,000	90,800	71,000	38,900
Employment	56,900	103,800	82,700	64,900	34,600
Unemployment	11,100	9,200	8,000	6,100	4,300
Unemployment Rate	16.3%	8.1%	8.8%	8.6%	11.1%
Participation Rate	53.0%	65.4%	62.8%	64.6%	60.2%

Economic Regions	Year to Date		February '12		February '11	
	Employment	Unemployment Rate	Employment	Unemployment Rate	Employment	Unemployment Rate
Northeast	57,300	15.8%	56,900	16.3%	56,800	17.2%
Southeast	104,400	7.8%	103,800	8.1%	98,500	10.1%
Southwest	83,200	8.5%	82,700	8.8%	85,300	6.9%
Central	65,100	8.5%	64,900	8.6%	67,300	7.0%
Northwest	34,900	10.7%	34,600	11.1%	34,000	9.3%

On a year-over-year basis (February 2012 compared to February 2011), employment increased in the Southeast (+5,300), Northwest (+600) and Northeast (+100) regions, while it decreased in the Southwest (-2,600) and Central (-2,400) economic regions.

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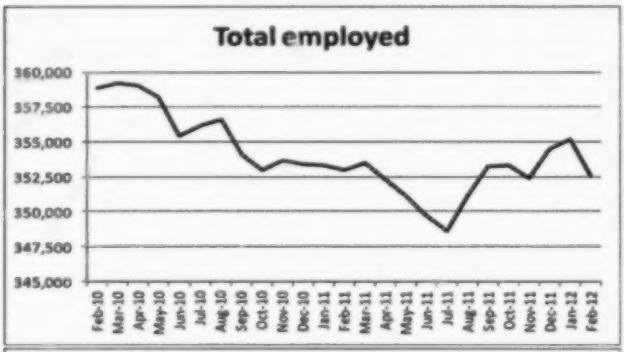
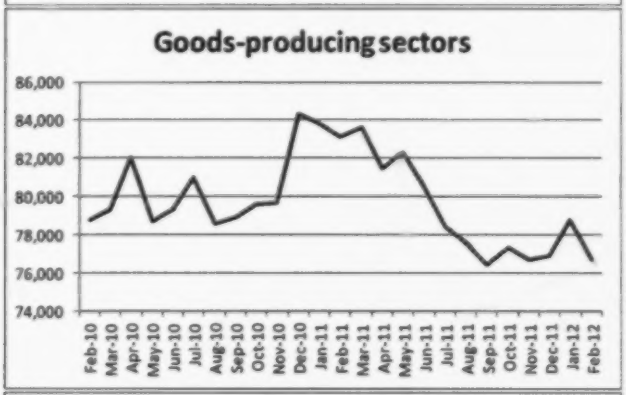
THE INDUSTRY REPORT—March Labour Force Survey Release for February 2012

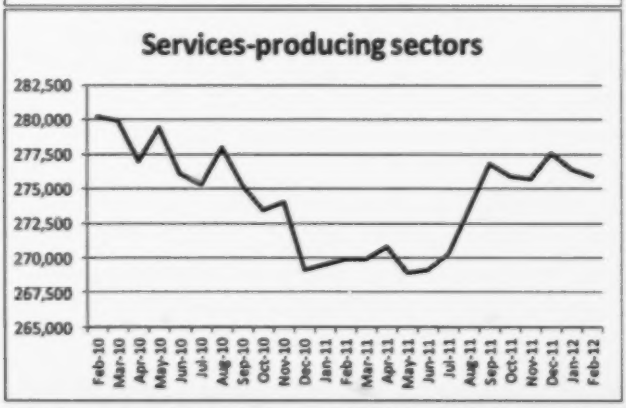


Total employment bottomed out in July 2011 at 348,600; since then, employment has increased by 1.1%, adding 4,000 jobs to the overall economy. In February 2012, total employment was 352,600, which is 6,600 lower than the peak recorded in March 2010, when employment reached 359,200.



Employment in the **goods-producing sectors*** peaked in December 2010 at 84,300; since then, employment has declined by 9%, or 7,600 jobs overall, in these sectors. As of February 2012, there were 76,700 people employed in these sectors.

* The goods-producing sectors in the LFS include all North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sectors from 11-33. For more information go to: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/special/labour2007-travail2007/lfs-epa-07code-eng.htm



Employment in the **services-producing sectors**** bottomed out in May of 2011 at 268,900; since then, employment has grown by 2.6%, adding 7,000 jobs to these sectors. As of February 2012, there were 275,900 people employed in these sectors.

** The service-producing sectors include all North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sectors from 41-91.

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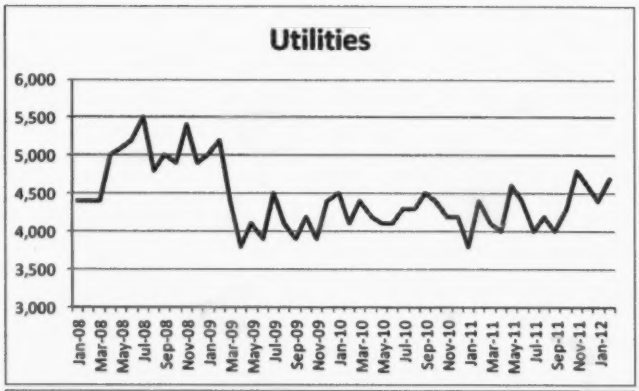
THE INDUSTRY REPORT—continued

The five sectors registering the largest employment growth are:

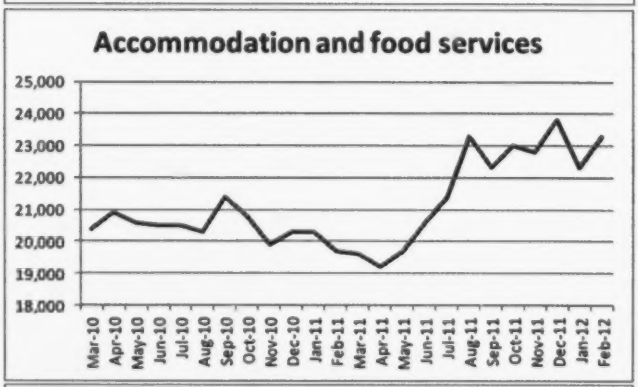
Utilities

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **4,700**
- Record employment level (July 2008): **5,500**
- Employment in the *Utilities sector* bottomed out in January 2011 at 3,800; since then, employment has grown by 23.70%, adding 900 net new jobs to the sector.



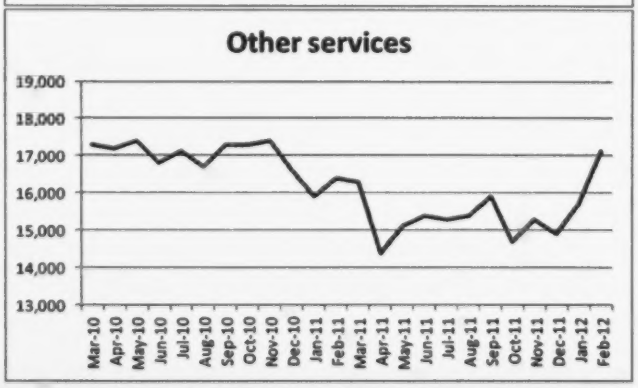
Accommodation and food services

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **23,300**
- Record employment level (May 2006): **26,500**
- Employment in the *Accommodation and food services sector* bottomed out in April 2011 at 19,200; since then, employment has grown by 21.4%, adding 4,100 net new jobs to the sector.



Other services

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **17,100**
- Record employment level (March 1999): **19,800**
- Employment in the *Other Services sector* bottomed out in April 2011 at 14,400; since then, employment has grown by 18.8%, adding 2,700 net new jobs to the sector.



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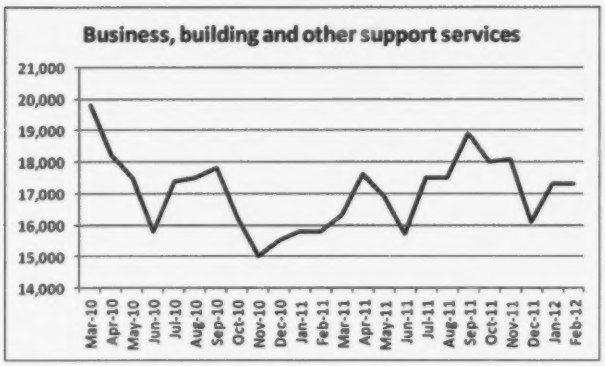
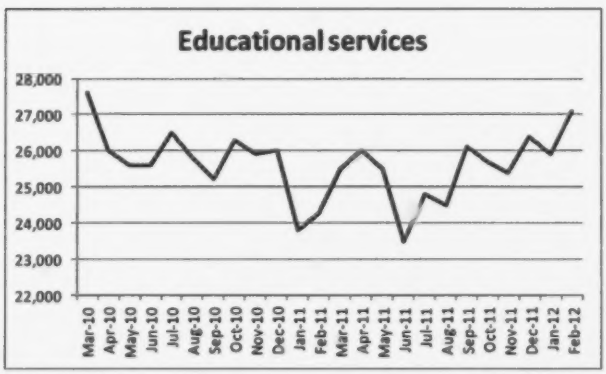
THE INDUSTRY REPORT—continued



Business, building and other support services

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **17,300**
- Record employment level (April 2004): **23,000**
- Employment in the *Business, building and other support services sector* bottomed out in November 2010 at 15,000; since then, employment has grown by 15.3%, adding 2,300 net new jobs to the sector.



Educational services

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **27,100**
- Record employment level (June 2007): **28,100**
- Employment in the *Educational services sector* bottomed out in June 2011 at 23,500; since then, employment has grown by 15.3%, adding 3,600 net new jobs to the sector.

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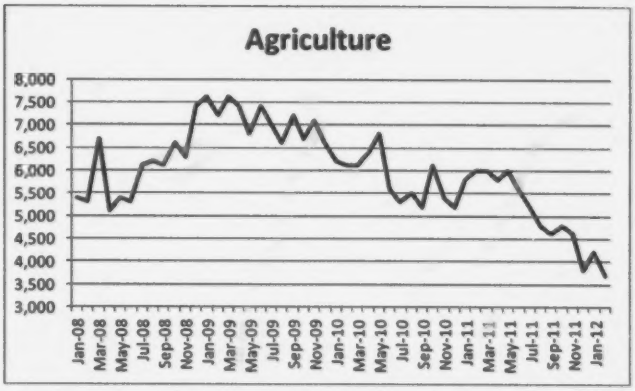
THE INDUSTRY REPORT—continued

The five sectors registering the largest employment losses over the last two years are:

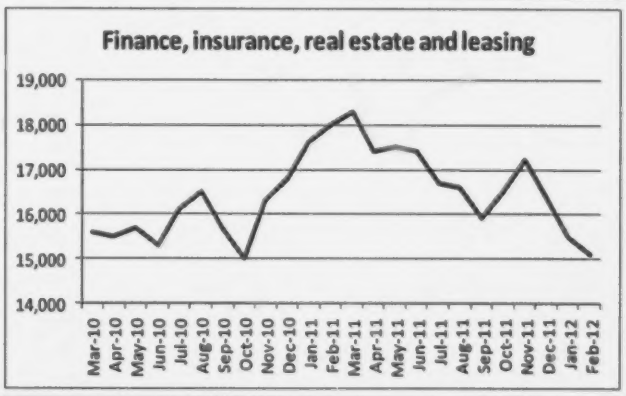
Agriculture

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **3,700**
- Record employment level (July 2005): **7,800**
- The most recent peak in employment in the *Agriculture sector* was in May 2010, at 6,800; since then, employment has declined by 45.6%, recording a net loss of 3,100 jobs from this sector.



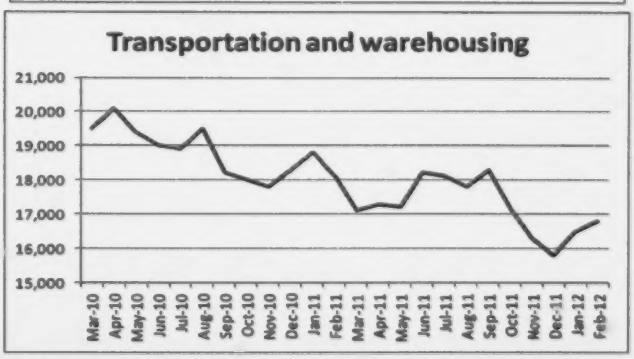
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **15,100**
- Record employment level (March 2011): **18,300**
- The most recent peak in employment in the *Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing sector* was in March 2011, at 18,300; since then, employment has declined by 17.5%, recording a net loss of 3,200 jobs from this sector.



Transportation and warehousing

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **16,800**
- Record employment level (June 2005): **22,000**
- The most recent peak in employment in the *Transportation and warehousing sector* was in April 2010, at 20,100; since then, employment has declined by 16.4%, recording a net loss of 3,300 jobs from this sector.



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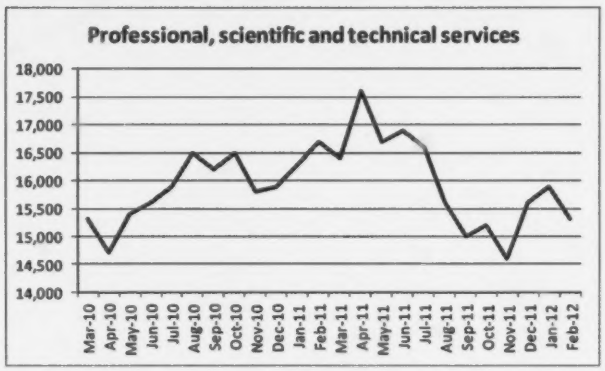
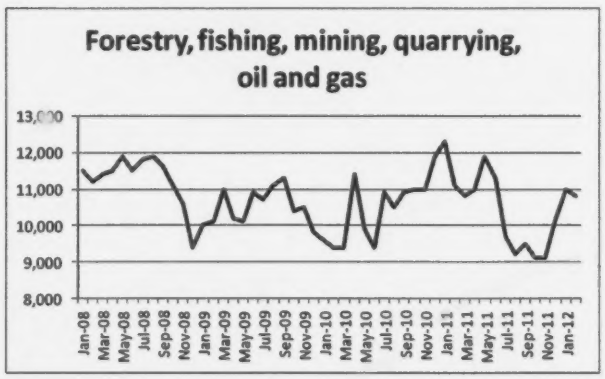


Professional, scientific and technical services

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **15,300**
- Record employment level (March 2008): **18,200**
- The most recent peak in employment in the *Professional, scientific and technical services sector* was in April 2011 at 17,600; since then, employment has declined by 13.1%, losing 2,300 jobs from this sector.



Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas

- Current employment level (as of February 2012): **10,800**
- Record employment level (December 1994): **14,600**
- The most recent peak in employment in the *Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas sector* was in January 2011, at 12,300; since then, employment has declined by 12.2%, recording a net loss of 1,500 jobs from this sector.

Produced by the Labour Market Analysis Branch (LMAB) of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour
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